

criterion by teachers and local school personnel in arriving at student grades and in making administrative decisions.

“§ 115C-174.12. *Responsibilities of agencies.*—(a) The State Board of Education shall review the recommendations of the Commission on Testing and select the tests that it believes will provide the best measures of the levels of academic achievement attained by students in various subject areas. The State Board of Education shall also establish policies and guidelines necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Article.

(b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be responsible, under policies adopted by the State Board of Education, for the statewide administration of the testing program provided by this Article and for providing necessary staff services to the Commission.

(c) Local boards of education shall cooperate with the State Board of Education in implementing the provisions of this Article, including the regulations and policies established by the State Board of Education. Local school administrative units shall use the annual and competency testing programs to fulfill the purposes set out in this Article. Local school administrative units are encouraged to continue to develop local testing programs designed to diagnose student needs further.

“§ 115C-174.13. *Public records exemption.*—Any written material containing the identifiable scores of individual students on any test taken pursuant to the provisions of this Article is not a public record within the meaning of G.S. 132-1 and shall not be made public by any person, except as permitted under the provisions of the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

“§ 115C-174.14. *Provisions for nonpublic schools.*—All components of the Statewide Testing Program shall be made available to nonpublic schools in the manner prescribed in G.S. 115C-551 and G.S. 115C-559.”

(b) This section is effective upon ratification.

—PRESCHOOL SCREENING/EVALUATIONS PILOT PROGRAMS

Sec. 75. The Department of Public Instruction shall assist, where necessary, a local school administrative unit in designing a preschool screening/evaluations pilot program. These programs shall primarily focus on a developmental evaluation during the kindergarten year to determine the appropriate developmental age and school placement for each child. They shall also include an early intervention phase to address the needs of children identified as developmentally immature or at risk.

Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Education in Section 2 of this act, the sum of two hundred eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$287,000) shall be used to establish preschool screening/evaluations pilot programs in 15 local school administrative units selected by the State Board of Education.

The Department of Public Education shall report on the pilot programs, before February 1, 1987, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division.

—DELAY CHANGE IN THE LAW REGARDING THE COST ALLOCATION OF PLACEMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

Sec. 76. (a) Section 2 of Chapter 465 of the 1985 Session Laws is rewritten to read:

“Sec. 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1987.”